

## THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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The WEEKLY DISPATCH at 21 per annum, The SEMI-MONTHLY DISPATCH at 30 per annum, or 75¢ for six months.

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SATURDAY.....FEBRUARY 26, 1887.

## The Extra Session.

Governor Lee, like President Cleveland, magnifies his office. He takes the responsibility of doing what is right, and lets the consequences take care of themselves. The Commonwealth is in a strait. There are dark clouds overhanging. Troubles threaten. The people must be heard. The only way in which their voice can be heard is through their chosen representatives. These the Governor summons to meet in the Capitol on the 16th of March.

Now for wise counsels. Now for men of enlarged views and no prejudices— we mean no prejudices. Now we shall see whether Virginia is still the mother of statesmen. The debt question lingers over the Commonwealth. Our legislators must clear up our sky.

To Mr. Editor, if "suppose" is to take the place of argument then argument, usually esteemed the highest expression of intellect, may be used by everybody. So let me "suppose" a little.

Suppose twenty of our rich men worth ten millions each were to decide to make a clause and desists to take ten millions of dollars from Richmond and export it in England? Suppose we send all Virginia retail merchants to that city? What would become of this city?—*Inapt.*

The commissioners would be perfectly safe in trusting the work to the Virginia sculptor. If VALENTINE, with his artistic training and thorough knowledge and appreciation of General Lee's character, cannot rise to "the height of the argument" and do the subject justly, no other sculptor can, be that sculptor's "reputation" never so great.

VALENTINE has proved his genius, and all men he could least afford to fail in this work.

Equal to the Occasion.

The Savannah *News* makes a good point in commenting upon the disposition at the North to segregate the "New South" from the "Old South." The *News* says:

The same people who controlled the South before slavery was abolished control it now. They lead in the professions, direct commerce, and till the soil.

There is an aggressive spirit of enterprise and progress noticeable, however, that did not exist in slave times.

This is new, and it is due to the term of "The New South." The southern people are now showing the sort of stuff they are made of. It was displayed in the war. It is the kind that will make any country great, and it will make the South great."

True. The Old South has simply proved herself equal to the occasion.

A Philadelphia contemporary re-

marks that "the stories that from time to time come from some of the convict camps" in Georgia are almost beyond belief. These things are a burning disgrace to civilization and a suggestive commentary upon the golden promises so loudly made recently by representative orators of the "New South."

Virginia visitors: T. S. Flounry, Colored S. Haas, R. H. Solomon, Richmond; F. M. Henderson, Lexington; James E. Heath, N. Bowman, Norfolk; James W. Tuck, Prince George County; Lawrence Sale, Liberia; Judge D. A. Grimsley and G. D. Gray, Culpeper; State-Senator E. E. Meredith, Prince William County.

From North Carolina: Mr. and Mrs. B. R. King, W. A. Turk.

Representative Croxton returned last night.

Major Robert Hunter, special agent of the Interior Department, after an absence in the far West of four or five months, returns to see his friends here and at Winchester.

The Misses Lyon, of Richmond, were at the Capitol to-day.

Sauce for the Goose is Sauce for the Gander.

To the Editor of the *Dispatch*:

H. A. S., from Amherst Courthouse, says: "A practical correspondent gives a singular reply to my query as published in your paper of the 19th. He says 'the State has bought no Riddebergers for five months, and their price had declined from \$60 to \$55.' By this statement the gentleman strengthens his side and not his own case."

But in the fourth paragraph of the same article I said: 'In the last fiscal year for a period of eight months not a bond was purchased or bid for, and Riddebergers advanced in that time at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum.'

By this statement the gentleman strengthens his side and not his own case.

Now, all these things are possible of occurrence; the only thing that is impossible being Virginia treating her creditors fairly, and that, mind you, I did not suppose quite possible as any of your suppositions.

Let us come now to argument: It is not right or profitable for a city any more than it is for an individual to depart from well-established business rules—which are to buy where you can get the most for your money. An individual may rightfully depart from this rule because he is dealing with his own money, but a city cannot rightfully do so because the city government is trustee for all the people, and it should act as a trustee, and we all know that a trustee is held to a much stricter accountability than one who is not a trustee. A trustee cannot, except at his peril, know what generosity and liberality are, and neither rightfully can a city.

If the City Council has a right to give 10 per cent. more to home people, it has an equal right to give 100 per cent. more, yet 1,000 per cent. Ten per cent. more is only a matter of opinion, and 100 per cent. is only a matter of opinion, and so 1,000 per cent. is only a matter of opinion. And if a City Council can rightfully grant certain citizens a bonus of 10 per cent, it can also rightfully sanction any job, however outrageous. When you say home workers ought to have a bonus of 10 per cent. or more, it would be very well if you were paying that bonus yourself; but when you are paying that bonus out of my pocket, against my consent, then you are simply robbing me. If the city government can rightfully favor individuals the matter of contracts, why can't it favor the State at the expense of the *Dispatch*, or vice versa? Or, why can't it favor one dry goods merchant at the expense of all the others?

Mr. Haworth has studied what George Fitzroy, following the *North British Review*, styled "Sociology." His celebrated father-in-law, Prof. Cooley, was also a humanitarian. Both of them desire and seek to promote the welfare of the human race. Mr. Haworth, however, has convictions so strong that he is hardly able to see anything good in those who do not fall in with his opinions. He is, nevertheless, one of the best men in public life in the United States. He is also an able man. Who takes him to be an enemy to the workingmen makes a mistake which all of Mr. Haworth's employers would rise up as one man to correct.

The City Water.

The waste of water in this city is so great that the authorities are trying to devise a method of remedying the wrong. There is but one effectual remedy; and this is the use of meters. The waste of water at the table-ware places is no doubt a large item, but the millions and millions of gallons that are wasted are chargeable to the private consumers.

To make meters in a few houses, or tables, or factories, will result in failure.

Would we limit the use of water? By no means. We would merely prevent the waste of it. Cleanliness is next

to godliness." Every water-taker should be allowed to use as much water as he needs, and for the privilege of doing so should continue to pay just as much as and no more than he pays now. But, in addition, he should pay for all the waste shown by the meter. Let the allowance be liberal—at least twenty allowances to each person—forty if necessary. This plan has been successfully tried elsewhere, we think.

If every man, woman, and child in the city were to use twenty gallons a day and no more, there would be an abundance of water here for years to come. In fact, the new reservoir holds forty millions of gallons, and can be filled every day by adding to the pump-works. And forty millions of gallons is an allowance of forty gallons a day for each person of a million of people—for the large city of Philadelphia, for example. Isn't it discreditable to our people that they should be so wasteful with the city water that if they were charged one twentieth of a cent per gallon for that water the city would derive a good revenue from it?

One More.

L. H. B. is determined not to let us have the last word, though he had the first. We are willing to let the following pass without comment, in view of the fact that he admits that countervailing duties at least equal to the internal tax ought to be levied by the Government. That would be levying protective duties for a good reason, or to state it differently, would justify protection. In other words, a Government may protect domestic industries if it also taxes them. But we forbear comment in order to put an end to the controversy.

The Lee Monument.

The *State* of yesterday, in an article recommended by the Lee monument, says:

"Now the *State* has from the first recommended our own sculptor, Valentine, and we feel safe in saying that four-fifths of the people of Virginia who have given the subject any thought are decidedly in favor of Valentine."

The commissioners would be perfectly safe in trusting the work to the Virginia sculptor. If VALENTINE, with his artistic training and thorough knowledge and appreciation of General Lee's character, cannot rise to "the height of the argument" and do the subject justly, no other sculptor can, be that sculptor's "reputation" never so great.

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The Columbus (Ohio) *Times* says: "Detroit must have moved, or the *Journal*'s headliner's geography needs revising. He locates it 'by blue Erie's waters.' The *Journal*'s headliner took

to a correspondent who has written to us on the subject we would say that a 6 per cent. bond is not worth twice as much as a 3 per cent. bond, though both be issued by the same State.

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